

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 102357

EXDIS, FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RH, PFOR, UK

SUBJECT: OWEN-VANCE MEETING: RHODESIA TALKING POINTS
REF: SEITZ-DAVIDOW TELCON

1. FOR EMBASSY'S USE ONLY, THE FOLLOWING IS THE TALKING
POINTS SECTION OF THE RHODESIA BRIEFING PAPER PREPARED
FOR THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH OWEN.

2. TALKING POINTS:

-- ON THE BASIS OF THE MEETINGS OUR TEAMS HAD LAST
WEEK, WE ARE NOW PREPARED TO ENTER INTO A PHASE OF
INTENSIVE, JOINT BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PRINCIPAL
PARTIES ABOUT AN INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION AND THE
NECESSARY TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. WE ARE COMMITTED
TO THIS PROCESS AND ANXIOUS TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM.

-- WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ASSIGN A SENIOR DIPLOMAT TO
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YOUR CONSULTATIVE OFFICE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN AN AFRICAN
CAPITAL.

-- WE REMAIN CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT WE TAKE NO STEPS
THAT WILL FURTHER ALIENATE THE AFRICANS. WE WANT OUR
INVOLVEMENT TO BE CONDUCIVE TO A SETTLEMENT, NOT SERVE

AS A STUMBLING BLOCK.

-- CONSEQUENTLY, PRIOR TO THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WE SHOULD CONTACT THE PARTIES, INFORM THEM OF OUR INTENTIONS, AND MAKE CLEAR TO THEM THE NATURE OF THE U.S. ROLE IN THIS CONSULTATIVE ENDEAVOR.

-- WE WILL SAY THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE PART OF THE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS, EITHER TOGETHER WITH YOU OR SEPARATELY, DEPENDING UPON THE PREFERENCE OF EACH PARTY.

-- WE WILL NOTE THAT THE U.S. DOES NOT ENVISION GETTING DEEPLY INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATING THE DETAILS OF THEIR CONSTITUTION, WHICH REMAINS LEGALLY A MATTER FOR THE BRITISH AND THE PARTIES. OUR ROLE WILL BE TO FACILITATE AGREEMENT ON BASIC PRINCIPLES AND HELP YOU SEEK A REAL BASIS FOR SETTLEMENT. WE SHOULD EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF U.S. PRESSURE ON SMITH, AS WELL AS U.S. WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND TO HELP GUARANTEE PEACE ONCE A SETTLEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED.

-- THIS POSITION WILL ALLOW US TO MAINTAIN SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY AS NEGOTIATIONS PROGRESS. GREATER INVOLVEMENT IS POSSIBLE IF IT BECOMES APPARENT THAT IT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PARTIES.

-- AT THE SAME TIME, WE THINK IT WOULD MAINTAIN ENOUGH U.S. INVOLVEMENT TO SATISFY SMITH AND VORSTER.

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-- DURING THE CONSULTATIONS WE WOULD CONDUCT OURSELVES IN AN IMPARTIAL MANNER DESIGNED TO INCREASE AFRICAN CONFIDENCE.

-- IF YOU AGREE TO THIS APPROACH I WILL PRESENT IT TO NKOMO IN MY MEETING LATER TODAY.

DISCUSSION OF NEXT STEPS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS:

ANNOUNCEMENT:

-- WE AGREE TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT YOU HAVE PROPOSED. WE THINK IT SHOULD BE MADE AFTER ALL PARTIES HAVE BEEN INFORMED PRIVATELY OF OUR INTENTIONS.

NOTE: IF DR. OWEN WISHES TO GO OVER THE ANNOUNCEMENT AGAIN AND PERHAPS MAKE SOME CHANGES, ITS GREATEST ASSET SHOULD BE RETAINED. WHILE IT MAKES CLEAR THAT THE BRITISH AND AMERICANS WILL BE WORKING TOGETHER, IT DOES

NOT USE THE WORD "JOINT." IT IMPLIES SOME SEPARATE ROLE FOR THE U.S. AS WELL AS BRITISH LEADERSHIP. IT IS VAGUE ON WHETHER THE U.S. WILL ACTUALLY BE NEGOTIATING ON THE CONSTITUTION.

TIMETABLE:

-- IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM, WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BEST TO GIVE OURSELVES SOME SPECIFIC DATES TO AIM FOR IN GETTING THESE TALKS STARTED. IS THIS TIMETABLE AGREEABLE TO YOU?

PROPOSED TIMETABLE:

MAY 6 - VANCE MEETING WITH NKOMO. HE WILL BE INFORMED OF OUR INTENTIONS.

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MAY 7-14 - OUR AMBASSADORS WILL INFORM THE OTHER PARTIES AND THE FRONT LINE STATES. COORDINATED INSTRUCTIONS TO OUR AMBASSADORS TO BE WORKED OUT THROUGH OUR EMBASSIES IN LONDON AND/OR WASHINGTON.

MAY 10-15 - ANNOUNCEMENT (DEPENDING ON HOW SOON PARTIES CAN BE INFORMED)

MAY 6-15 - A SPECIFIC NEGOTIATING STRATEGY SHOULD BE WORKED OUT BEFORE THE SUBSTANTIVE CONSULTATIONS BEGIN. IT SHOULD BE BASED ON THE BRITISH PAPER ON HOW SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES ARE TO BE RAISED IN THE INITIAL NEGOTIATIONS.

INITIAL TALKS:

THROUGH YOUR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WE HAVE SUGGESTED SEEING A PAPER OUTLINING YOUR IDEAS ON WHAT WE SHOULD SEEK TO ACCOMPLISH FIRST IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

-- DO WE WANT TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT FROM ALL PARTIES ON CERTAIN GENERAL PRINCIPLES? E.G.;

- . FREE ELECTIONS WITH ALL PARTIES PARTICIPATING
- . STRONG HUMAN RIGHTS GUARANTEES
- . A REAL TRANSFER OF POWER TO BLACK MAJORITY RULE
- . A BROAD FRANCHISE

-- ALTERNATIVELY, DO WE WANT TO BEGIN BY NEGOTIATING ON THE ISSUES THAT WILL PROBABLY PROVE TO BE MOST DIVISIVE?

E.G.;

. THE QUESTION OF A BLOCKING VOTE FOR THE WHITES
. THE FRANCHISE . THE QUESTION OF WHO WILL PROVIDE
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ZIMBABWE'S ARMY -THE NATIONALISTS OR THE CURRENT REGIME?
. WHITE ECONOMIC SECURITY AND PRIVILEGES . TRANSITION
AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS THAT WOULD BE "FAIR" TO ALL
NATIONALIST GROUPS.

-- OR, ALTERNATIVELY, DO WE SIMPLY WANT TO START BY
ASKING THE PARTIES WHAT ISSUES SHOULD BE DISCUSSED FIRST
AND GO FROM THERE? CHRISTOPHER

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